

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the previous listing of claims with the following listing of claims.

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~irrigating a body cavity positioning a tube in the bowel~~, comprising:

pushing a guidewire having a bulbous enlargement at a distal end into the ~~body cavity bowel~~; then

~~facilitating passage of the guidewire through the bowel lumen by manipulating the bulbous enlargement, manipulation of the bulbous enlargement including applying, from a position alongside and exterior of the bowel, direct pressure against the bulbous enlargement or grasping the bulbous enlargement through intact overlying bowel wall; and then~~

~~sliding an the tube over or along the guidewire , the irrigating tube having a distal end, a passage and an opening at or near the distal end which communicates with the passage; and then directing fluid through the passage defined by the irrigating tube while the irrigating tube is situated over or along the guidewire such that the fluid flows from the passage out of the opening at or near the distal end of the irrigating tube into the body cavity to irrigate the body cavity.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein ~~the body cavity is the colon~~, the step of pushing the guidewire into the colon ~~comprising comprises~~ pushing the guidewire through the anal sphincter and rectum into the colon.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising providing the bulbous enlargement with a smooth outer arcuate surface such that when the guidewire is pushed into the ~~body cavity bowel~~, contact between the bulbous enlargement and ~~[[a]] the bowel wall of the body cavity~~ does not cause perforation of the ~~bowel wall of the body cavity~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising positioning the

~~irrigating~~ tube over the guidewire such that guidewire is situated in the passage defined by the ~~irrigating~~ tube and the ~~irrigating~~ tube slides over the guidewire, ~~the fluid being directed in the passage over the guidewire.~~

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
grasping the bulbous enlargement ~~when present in the body cavity after the guidewire has been passed through the bowel lumen to reach a position; and then~~
pulling the guidewire outward from the ~~body cavity bowel~~ to cause the ~~body cavity bowel~~ to compress and shorten the distance between that position and an entrance leading to the ~~body cavity bowel~~; and ~~a treatment site at which the bulbous enlargement is positioned then~~
advancing the bulbous enlargement and shaft of the guidewire further into the bowel.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising sizing the bulbous enlargement to have a diameter of about 0.25 inches to about 0.75 inches.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the ~~irrigating~~ tube is slid over the guidewire, further comprising:
sizing the bulbous enlargement to have a diameter smaller than an inner diameter of the ~~irrigating~~ tube; and
withdrawing the guidewire from the ~~irrigating~~ tube after the ~~irrigating~~ tube is slid over the guidewire and before fluid is directed through the passage defined by the ~~irrigating~~ tube.

15-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the ~~irrigating~~ tube is slid over the guidewire such that the passage has an inner boundary defined by an outer surface of a shaft of the guidewire and an outer boundary defined by an inner surface of the ~~irrigating~~ tube, the shaft having a smaller diameter than a diameter of the bulbous enlargement.

30. (Canceled)

31. (New) The method of claim 7, further comprising directing fluid through a passage defined by the tube after the tube has been slid over or along the guidewire and is situated over or along the guidewire such that the tube is an irrigating tube.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising positioning the tube over the guidewire such that guidewire is situated in the passage defined by the tube and the tube slides over the guidewire, the fluid being directed in the passage over the guidewire.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the tube has a distal end, a passage and an opening at or near the distal end which communicates with the passage, the fluid being directed through the passage defined by the tube while the tube is situated over or along the guidewire such that the fluid flows from the passage out of the opening at or near the distal end of the tube into the bowel to irrigate the bowel.

34. (New) A method for positioning a tube in the bowel, comprising:
pushing a guidewire having a flexible shaft and a bulbous enlargement at a distal end of the shaft into the bowel, the bulbous enlargement having a diameter of about 0.25 inches to about 0.75 inches and a smooth outer arcuate surface; then

from a position alongside and exterior of the bowel, advancing the guidewire through the bowel lumen until the bulbous enlargement reaches a desired position in the bowel by manually grasping or manipulating the bulbous enlargement through intact overlying bowel wall and urging the bulbous enlargement forward through the bowel lumen to the desired position; and then

sliding the tube over or along the guidewire.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising directing fluid through the passage defined by the tube after the tube has been slid over or along the guidewire and is situated over or along the guidewire such that the tube is an irrigating tube.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising positioning the tube over the guidewire such that guidewire is situated in the passage defined by the tube and the tube slides over the guidewire, the fluid being directed in the passage over the guidewire.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the tube has a distal end, a passage and an opening at or near the distal end which communicates with the passage, the fluid being directed through the passage defined by the tube while the tube is situated over or along the guidewire such that the fluid flows from the passage out of the opening at or near the distal end of the tube into the bowel to irrigate the bowel.

38. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the step of pushing the guidewire into the colon comprising pushing the guidewire through the anal sphincter and rectum into the colon.

39. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising positioning the tube over the guidewire such that guidewire is situated in the passage defined by the tube and the tube slides over the guidewire.

40. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising:

grasping the bulbous enlargement after the guidewire has been passed through the bowel lumen to reach a position; then

pulling the guidewire outward from the bowel to cause the bowel to compress and shorten the distance between that position and an entrance leading to the bowel; and then

advancing the bulbous enlargement and shaft of the guidewire further into the bowel.

41. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the tube is slid over the guidewire and has an inner diameter larger than the diameter of the bulbous enlargement, further comprising:

withdrawing the guidewire from the tube after the tube is slid over the guidewire and before fluid is directed through the passage defined by the tube.

42. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the tube is slid over the guidewire such that the passage has an inner boundary defined by an outer surface of a shaft of the guidewire and an outer boundary defined by an inner surface of the tube, the shaft having a smaller diameter than a diameter of the bulbous enlargement.